



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

infection by milk, the red eye lids, enlarged glands, and various other marks of latent tubercular infection are noticeable.

Outside of the little pamphlet of instructions to mothers in respect to the care of babies, few steps are being taken to educate them upon this subject. In the Mechanics Institute a course of lectures is to be resumed this year on the hygiene of childhood similar to those begun by the writer a dozen years ago.

The municipality gets very little help from the work of private agencies. Not that private agencies are not doing a great deal, for they are, but the great difficulty with all work of this kind is the lack of co-operation. One set of people are interested in doing things for hygiene and nothing else; another set in looking after the sick; another, in furnishing milk and so on. I do not believe we can do much until we can have a kind of clearing house in which all kinds of relief work may be operated together.

NOTE.—Letters were received from several additional cities either stating that little or no work was being done along the lines indicated, or the replies were such that we have not been able to utilize them. A number of cities did not reply to our queries, and concerning them such information as we have given in respect to the foregoing cities cannot be recorded.

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN¹

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children occupies a unique position in the metropolis. It is at once a state agency and a private institution, a seeming contradiction of terms, but not so understood by those who know the causes underlying the granting of extraordinary legal powers to a private institution whose records are not public property. The action of the legislature in delegating such authority to the societies organized in New York under the Membership Corporations Laws is thoroughly approved by judges and jurists and was, indeed, held by the Court of Appeals of New York State to have been a wise public policy. The Society does a work of prevention, the extent of which is not only little known, but can probably never be fully understood by the general public. It is necessarily a quiet work, being of a more or less personal nature and requiring ceaseless attention night and day. The community at large will never know the number of rescues of children from neglect and abuse and unspeakable cruelties which are being continually made by the Society's agents in New York City alone. Annual reports and public statements can refer in but a very vague and general way to the breadth of the work and to the detail which can never be written. Almost three-quarters of a million of children have been involved in the investigations made by the Society's officers, and the welfare of each of them contributed to directly or indirectly in such a manner as to have improved their condition in some way. This

¹Contributed by E. Fellows Jenkins, Secretary and Superintendent
(492)

"some way" may mean the absolute removal from improper guardians, the commitment to institutions of such as require reformation, or placing in suitable juvenile reformatories boys who have, through their own misconduct or the influence of others, become such as to require that sort of care. It may mean the releasing on parole of a larger number than was committed for any of the causes just stated. It is worthy of note that 400 societies in forty-four states of the Union are operating under laws based on those of New York for the prevention of cruelty to children. This is quite a remarkable condition, in view of the fact that the laws of most of the states on given subjects are widely divergent. The world has watched the progress in New York, the result of appeals to the higher courts from judgments made under the statutes whose passage was secured by the Society, and has, with remarkable unanimity, adopted these same statutes in toto, excepting with slight changes to meet local conditions.

The British Parliament, in considering the application of the eminent ladies and gentlemen who applied for a Charter for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, London, caused inquiry to be made of the conditions in New York, and of the strength of the laws which had been in operation here for thirteen years. A royal charter was granted to the great London Society, whose magnificent organization is such that no child in Great Britain or Ireland is too far away to be visited on short notice by an inspector of the National Society and its conditions improved, if need be. In Scotland a similar institution does a similar work, and so it is throughout most of the European countries, in India, South Africa, Australia, Tasmania and South America.

This Society's great work still lies as much in the prosecution of offenders against children as in the prevention of cruelty to them. The record of criminal prosecutions instituted by the Society, the startling number of convictions, the well-filled cells in the State Prison, speak more forcefully than statistics of the result of the work of prevention which had its origin in New York City. The work is not limited to the removal of children from unfit homes. Unfit homes there are, as there always have been, and probably will be, and it is in these places that the Society finds its great opportunity. No one but the persons concerned can ever know what it means to visit a "home" of neglect and dissipation and miserable conditions, to administer an official warning, to return and find a partial improvement and as the visits continue, to see unclean rooms become clean ones, children better clad, and drunken parents become sober because they fear the law. "Moral suasion" is a fallacy with these people until the unfit guardians become more careful in their duties, not because of any kindly word spoken, but because of the fear which they entertain. Ignorant and vicious people must be compelled to do what is right by the strong arm of the law. But once this work of compulsion is begun, once these people undergo the unpleasant experience of being visited at uncertain hours of the day and night, once they realize that others will do for them that which they have neglected to do, they wake up to the fact that theirs will be the loss. Few fail to profit by it. The Society never removes a child from any home unless the case is a hopeless one. Removal,

in fact, is the last resort. But who will say that the little ones are not rescued when the Society steps in to take them from depraved and naturally unfit guardians? Who will object to a child's removal from a brothel and its transfer to proper surroundings? Who will say that little children should be permitted to be reared in scenes and homes of continual drunkenness?